

Message Text

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1. INTENSE SWEDISH INTEREST IN CYPRUS COUP D'ETAT REFLECTED BY HEAVY COVERAGE IN LOCAL MEDIA, WITH MOST COMMENTATIONS ASSUMING THAT GREEK GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR INSTIGATING OVERTHROW OF MAKARIOS GOVERNMENT. SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO CONSISTENT ATTEMPT TO LINK USG WITH COUP, ALTHOUGH SUCH EFFORTS MAY BE EXPECTED IN VIEW OF LONG HISTORY HERE OF ATTEMPTS TO TIE IN U.S. WITH OUSTER OF GOVERNMENTS THROUGHOUT THIRD WORLD.

2. DURING NIGHT OF JULY 15-16, ARMED POLICE TOOK UP POSTS OUTSIDE GREEK CHANCELLERY, FACING SMALL GROUP OF CYPRIOTS MAINTAININ VIGIL THERE THROUGHOUT NIGHT. DEMONSTRATORS DISPLAYED SIGNS PROCLAIMING SUPPORT FOR MAKARIOS AND DENOUNCING ATHENS REGIME.

3. EMBASSY OFFICER TALKED WITH SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL (THYBERG), WHO SAID SWEDISH GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING SITUATION ON ISLAND CLOSELY. NOTING THAT SWEDEN HAS 215 OFFICERS AND MEN IN U.N. CONTINGENT ON CYPRUS, AS WELL AS MORE THAN 1500 SWEDISH TOURISTS CURRENTLY

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VACATIONING THERE, THYBERG SAID GOS WAS HANDICAPPED IN

OBTAINING INFORMATION ON COUP BY LACK OF RESIDENT AMBASSADOR IN NICOSIA. SWEDISH AMBASSADOR IN ATHENS, HE SAID, WAS ABLE TO SHED NO LIGHT RE CYPRUS SITUATION. HOWEVER, COMMANDER OF SWEDISH U.N. DETACHMENT HAD REPORTED IN THAT, AT LEAST FOR PRESENT, U.N. FORCE IN NO DANGER. THYBERG ADDED THAT GOS FOCUS WOULD BE ON NEW YORK AND POSSIBILITY OF U.N. ACTION RE CYPRUS.

4. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM PRESENCE OF SWEDISH TROOP IN U.N. CONTINGENT (AND SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF SWEDISH TOURISTS) ON CYPRUS, SWEDES ARE HIGHLY INTERESTED IN IDEOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF CYPRIOT STRKGGLE. IN VIEW OF TRADITIONAL SWEDISH ANTIPATHY TOWARDS RIGHTWING REGIMES, GREEK JUNTA HAS LONG BEEN UNPOPULAR WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT HERE. IN FACT, IT WAS ONLY IN SUMMER OF 1972 THAT STOCKHOLM AND ATHENS EXCHANGED AMBASSADORS AFTER SEVERAL YEARS HIATUS WITHOUT AMBASSADORS IN EITHER CAPITAL. INTEREST IN GREECE IS FURTHER HEIGHTENED BY PRESENCE OF SOME 16,000 GREEK WORKERS IN SWEDEN AND POPULARITY OF GREECE AND CYPRUS AS VACATION SPOTS FOR SUN-THIRSTY SWEDES.

5. SHOULD CURRENT SWEDISH ASSUMPTION OF GREEK GOVERNMENT COMPLICITY IN MAKARIOS OVERTHROW BE CONFIRMED, DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST GREEK EMBASSY HERE LIKELY.

6. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING REPORTS ON DEVELOPING CYPRUS SITUATION.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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